



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A disposable diaper comprising a liquid permeable topsheet, a liquid impermeable backsheet and liquid retentive absorbent members interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet,

said absorbent members being disposed in series in the direction of from the rear portion, through the crotch portion, to the front portion of the diaper,

an elastic member being disposed in its stretched state on both sides of said series of said absorbent members, and

said absorbent members being arranged such that a gap, which gap extends in a width direction of said diaper, is produced between any adjacent two of said absorbent members when the diaper is stretched flat and that any adjacent two of said absorbent members come into close contact with each other when the diaper is worn.

2. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein each of said absorbent members comprises a fiber aggregate and/or a superabsorbent polymer,

the opposite side faces of each of said absorbent members which extend in the diaper length direction and the skin-facing surface of each of said absorbent members are covered with a sheet of nonwoven fabric which bridges said absorbent members, and

said nonwoven fabric is water-hydrophilic in a part or the whole of the area covering said skin-facing surface of each of said absorbent members and is water-repellent in the area covering said opposite side faces of each of said absorbent members.

3. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein standing gathers are provided on both sides of the diaper along the direction of from the rear portion, through the crotch portion, to the front portion of the diaper, said standing gathers on each side being formed

by fixing a standing gather-forming sheet having an elastic member along each of the longer sides of the diaper such that said sheet covers an area of the topsheet inward and outward about each of the longer side edges of the topsheet.

4. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein standing gathers are provided on each side of the diaper along the direction of from the rear portion, through the crotch portion, to the front portion, the fixed end of said standing gathers on each side depicting a wavy line, and part of said fixed end depicting a projection toward the widthwise middle of the diaper in the vicinity of the facing corners of any adjacent two of said absorbent members.

5. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 4, wherein said part of said fixed end intrudes between said any adjacent two of said absorbent members.